

about the impact that this war is having on the civilians in Iraq. Their lives are being destroyed. Their families are being wiped out.

House Joint Resolution 55 sets the stage for bringing our troops home and ending this tragedy in Iraq.

#### EFFECTIVELY FIGHTING TERRORISM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, though the two parties may disagree on aspects of the war in Iraq, I believe that terrorism is not a partisan issue. Yet minority party Members choose to align themselves solely with political rhetoric and hollow accusations. Instead of joining efforts to enhance America's security, Democrats continue to bring sensationalistic banter to this floor.

Republicans are pushing legislation forward that will improve the effectiveness of and bring more accountability to U.S. foreign assistance around the world and bring democracy even further into the light. It is no secret that terrorist groups continue to recruit and train at a rapid pace. This legislation assists in cutting off the outlets and supplies of terrorist organizations and helps sever their operational channels. We are vigorously closing their doors.

The foreign relations authorization addresses the pressing issues of our day such as U.N. reform, human rights and nuclear proliferation. This legislation authorizes assistance to America's allies and contains measures that continue breaking down elements of repressive foreign governments. As terrorists seek to debase the vision of peace and tear down hope, America will steadfastly provide a beacon of promise and allegiance.

#### CAFTA

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I just heard a quote on the floor of the House of Representatives to send product to Central America or send troops. I have never heard anything more absurd or simplistic in my 9 years here in the House of Representatives. The people of these six countries oppose CAFTA. They say it is unfair. And it really is a corporate-inspired trade deal that hurts working people both in the United States and Central America.

Stop the hemorrhaging of American jobs. Protect American sovereignty. Put some backbone into both sides of the aisle on the independence of the legislative body. CAFTA is not only a spear into the heart of American independence but a heavy blow to the integrity of this House under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Do we have the backbone to stand for the common good, the basis for the

Judeo-Christian foundation of this Nation? Or do we just invoke these principles when convenient?

#### CAFTA

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, the United States is a leader in today's global economy. As countries around the world work and trade together at a rapidly growing pace, we must stay competitive to remain a contender. The Central American Free Trade Agreement will help us do just that.

My home State of Washington is the most trade dependent State in the country. One in three jobs in Washington depends on trade. We must embrace CAFTA and see it as an opportunity to stimulate our economy and be actively involved in a world market. The United States cannot afford to shrink from international trade and establish itself as an isolationist. The absence of our participation will only be seen as an opportunity by competing nations like China. Whether we are prepared to acknowledge it or not, we are in a global economy.

Mr. Speaker, this trade agreement builds America. In establishing an open exchange with the Central American countries, we build our foreign relations. By increasing circulation of goods, we build our economy. And in taking this step forward, we build on the future and the possibility that the entire Western hemisphere will one day be open to free trade. CAFTA looks to the future of our country. I urge my colleagues to support this agreement.

#### SERVICE IN IRAQ

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days I had the privilege of visiting in the home of John Boccerri. John Boccerri is a young Ohio State representative. He is the husband of Stacy, the father of two young daughters and just 3 days ago brought to his home from the hospital his third child, born 8 pounds, 8 ounces, young Matthew Boccerri.

I was in that home as John gave that young infant into the arms of his young daughters for the very first time. John is a pilot in the Air Reserves flying out of the Youngstown Air Base. He flies the large C-130 transport planes.

On Thursday of this week, tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock, John Boccerri leaves his wife, leaves his two daughters and his new infant son to go to Iraq for the fourth time. For the fourth time. John Boccerri represents the hundreds, yea, the thousands of young Americans who are serving this country with honor and distinction. It is sad that John Boccerri's children will pay for the cost of this war.

#### DR-CAFTA IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, also known as CAFTA. While CAFTA countries also enjoy duty-free access to U.S. markets for the majority of their products through U.S. trade preference programs, these countries often have high tariff and nontariff barriers for U.S. exports.

Under CAFTA, barriers to U.S. exports in these countries would be drastically reduced. More than 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports and over half of U.S. farm exports to Central America would become duty-free immediately with the agreement's enactment, and the rest would be phased out over time. CAFTA would also benefit the State of Georgia, which I represent, by providing new market access for our State's products.

CAFTA will also help the U.S. and CAFTA countries compete with China, a growing economic force in the world market. Seventy-one percent of apparel from CAFTA countries currently enters the United States using U.S. yarns and fabrics, while only one-tenth of 1 percent of apparel from China enters the United States using U.S. yarn or fabric.

Mr. Speaker, this body must pass CAFTA and give the United States the same access to the markets in South America that they have to ours.

#### IRAQ AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my colleague just before me indicated the crisis that we have in America where a young man is sent off four times to Iraq and not able to see his family.

Well, maybe the young soldier that I buried the other day, Nathaniel Parker, who got liver disease in Iraq and died languishing in one of our military hospitals, or maybe the tragedy of 70 who died after a suicide explosion there are crises that we should be focusing on. Then, of course, our friends on the other side of the aisle want to insist that Americans change their basic infrastructure pension, that is, Social Security. We know that whatever plan they have is going to cut America's benefits. In fact, middle-class Americans will have their benefits cut 40 percent.

Social Security should not be privatized. It can be fixed. It can be extended. Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill did it in 1983.

Women most of all will be hurt. More than 24 million women receive Social